

From: kay strahorn [mailto:kstrahorn@mchsi.com]

Sent: Monday, October 15, 2007 9:25 PM

To: Beall, Daryl [LEGIS]; Heaton, Dave [LEGIS]; Mulder, Dave [LEGIS]; Seymour, James [LEGIS]; Janet Peterson; Tymeson, Jodi [LEGIS]; Kreiman, Keith [LEGIS]; Gaskill, Mary [LEGIS]; Mascher, Mary [LEGIS]; Appel, Staci [LEGIS]

Subject: idea for the Home-Based Child Care Study Committee

Legislators,

My name is Kay Strahorn and I am a Child Development Home Provider in Urbandale. I attended the exciting and very positive Study Committee meeting last Wednesday, October 10th.

First, I want to thank you for scheduling the meeting in the evening and also for listening so respectfully and asking thoughtful questions.

Second, I'd like to present an idea that popped into my head that evening during the discussion. All newly registered providers should be required to go through a week of paid orientation or training. Most newly hired employees have some type of orientation and family child care providers should be no different. I know family child care providers are self-employed but if we're registered or hopefully licensed then the state should provide orientation. It would have helped me when I started providing care two and half years ago and I had 10 years of child care experience. Not to mention a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Some of the training that would take place would include:

- *CPR/ First Aid/ Universal Precautions
- *Mandatory Reporting
- *SIDS training
- *Liability insurance information
- *CACFP (Food Program) information
- *Child Development/ Multiple Ages training
- *Tours of Child Development Homes

The last item would have been the most helpful piece for me. Even with my child care experience, family child care is its own entity. Setting up a quality environment in a house, learning to work with multiple ages in a developmentally appropriate way, and being responsible for every part of a busy day are all challenging to me still and I have 4 out of 5 stars on the Quality Rating Scale (QRS).

Who would provide this orientation? CCR&R (Child Care Resource & Referral) would be the most obvious. They were and continue to be very helpful for my business.

Who would pay for it? Empowerment dollars perhaps. The payment could be in the form of a stipend. I think \$400-\$600 would be fair for a week's time.

Drawbacks? Two that I can think of and they both deal with logistics. First, in small towns and rural areas it might be difficult to regularly schedule orientation in convenient locations. Second, if providers have children or are already providing care then what happens to the kids?

Bottom line is that this would easily raise the quality of care that our children receive and isn't that the goal?

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Sincerely,

Kay Strahorn

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